GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3236
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2006
SCIENCE COUNSELORS IN INDIAN MISSIONS
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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The number of Indian diplomatic missions abroad, country-wise;

(b) The number of science counselors in these missions;

(c)The duties performed by these science counselors posted in these missions;

(d) Whether the number of science counselor is insufficient owing to a number of scientific collaborations taking place in the world;

(e) If so, the details thereof; and

(f) The steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) to (f) India has resident diplomatic Missions in 115 countries, as listed in the enclosure.

Apart from these, India has 2 Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York and Geneva respectively, as well as a Permanent Delegation to United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in Paris.

As part of its diplomatic activities, each Indian Mission abroad promotes cooperation in the various facets of science and technology, including Atomic Energy, Space and Defence Technology. An officer in each Mission is given the responsibility for this work, either exclusively or as part of his overall work. In specific cases, non-MEA officers are also posted to Indian Missions abroad keeping in mind the nature and extent of bilateral cooperation in this field. Currently, 11 such officers at the level of Minister (Joint Secretary level), Counsellor (Director level) or First Secretary

(Deputy Secretary level) are posted in the following Indian Missions: Washington − 3 officers; Paris − 2 officers; Beijing, London, Moscow, Berlin, Tokyo and Vienna − 1 officer each.

The Government ensures that sufficient number of officers, either from MEA or otherwise, are posted to look after matters relating to Science and Technology in Indian Missions abroad. In addition, the Government facilitates direct linkages between science and technology institutions in India and their counterparts abroad.